

From The Audition by Don Zolidis

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By Don Zolidis

SARAH, teens

TOMMY, teens

MR. TORRANCE, 40s

(MR. TORRANCE could just as easily be MS. TORRANCE.)

Sarah is about to audition for a role in the high school musical, but she has bigger designs than just getting a part.

SARAH

Can I audition with somebody else? Is that possible?

MR. TORRANCE *(off)*

I'm going to need to hear you sing—

SARAH

Okay, but for the acting, can I bring in a partner?

MR. TORRANCE *(off)*

I guess.

SARAH

Can my partner be Tommy?

MR. TORRANCE *(off)*

Sure.

SARAH

You don't know how much that means to me.

MR. TORRANCE *(off)*

Carmen, can you get Tommy?

(The STAGE MANAGER exits.)

SARAH

Can I tell you something? Tommy doesn't know he's going to do a duet with me.

MR. TORRANCE *(off)*

Oh.

SARAH

And is it okay if we do this scene I wrote?

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MR. TORRANCE (*off*)

Well—

(*the STAGE MANAGER brings in TOMMY.*)

TOMMY

I thought my audition time wasn't for another fifteen minutes.

SARAH

Hi.

TOMMY

Hey Sarah.

SARAH

Hi. What's up?

TOMMY

I'm auditioning for the show.

SARAH

I know. Me too. Isn't that awesome?

MR. TORRANCE (*off*)

I don't have all day people.

(*SARAH pulls TOMMY aside.*)

TOMMY

What's going on?

SARAH

Looks like they're pairing us up for a duet scene. Are you ready?

TOMMY

What duet scene?

SARAH

Oh here's the script.

(*she hands him a copy of the script.*)

TOMMY

Is this even in the play?

SARAH

They're thinking about adding it. And I overheard them talking earlier: they want passion.

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Passion? TOMMY

Right. Passion. SARAH

Okay. TOMMY

You can do it. Are you ready? SARAH

I haven't even read the— TOMMY

Let's go. SARAH

(She pulls TOMMY back to centerstage.)
Hi my name is Sarah Arlen and this is Tommy Hartley and we're going to be auditioning for you now.

(she gets into character. TOMMY reads from the script. SARAH has it memorized.)

I don't know if I love Anne any more. TOMMY

How can you say that? SARAH

I think there's somebody else that I love more. TOMMY

Gregory, don't. Please. You can't mean me. SARAH

I do. You see, Anne is... fat and ugly and wears too much makeup around her eyes. It makes her look like a pig ran through a department store. Also I hate her high, whiny voice. It's like when she talks all the dogs in the neighborhood come running. And she smells like bacon all the time. I don't know why. Why did I ever start going out with her? TOMMY

You were crazy. SARAH

TOMMY

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I was, but now I see you.

SARAH

You do?

TOMMY

Yes, compared to you, my current girlfriend is a bloated dead octopus washing up on the shore punctured with thirty hypodermic needles left over by the mafia. But you—

SARAH

Yes?

TOMMY

You are the most beautiful girl in the world. You are a star, a diamond, a diamond star, you are the cherry on top of my sundae, you are the whipped cream in my hot chocolate, you are the teeth in my mouth. I want to kiss you. And not just a regular kiss, a super kiss, the kind of kiss where you it's like you've been hit in the head with the brick of love and you're bleeding out the side of your head where you got hit with that brick, and even the blood that's oozing down your hair is beautiful. Like that.

SARAH

Kiss me then you sad wonderful fool.

(TOMMY stops. SARAH whispers to him loudly.)

It says you're supposed to kiss me.

TOMMY

I know, I'm just—

SARAH

You need to kiss me to get the part. He wants passion.

TOMMY

Okay, um...

MR. TORRANCE *(off)*

That's enough, thank you.

TOMMY

Thank you. I need to go.

(He leaves, relieved.)

SARAH

So is there like a romantic duo we could be cast as? Did you see that chemistry?